

Torrance, California  
January 7, 1947

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California on Tuesday, January 7, 1947 at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: Gilbert and Jackson.

All those present in the assemblage saluted the Flag.

Councilman Tolson moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held Tuesday, December 24, 1946 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

This being the time and place fixed for the opening of bids for the \$174,000 bonds of Municipal Water District No. 2 of the City of Torrance, California, the following bids received pursuant to the notice of sale were publicly opened, examined and read:

John Nuveen and Company; Paine, Webber, Jackson and Curtis bid par, accrued interest to date of delivery and a premium of \$356.00 for bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3% per annum, payable semiannually on bonds numbered 1 to 144 inclusive, and at the rate of 3½% per annum, payable semiannually, on bonds numbered 145 to 174 inclusive.

Bank of America, National Trust and Savings Association bid par, accrued interest to date of delivery, and a premium of \$439.00 for bonds bearing an interest rate of 4% per annum, payable semiannually.

Councilman Tolson moved that these two bids be referred to O'Melveny and Myers, Attorneys, for recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Miles Pelikan of John Nuveen and Company addressed the Council with the request that his Company's bid be given immediate consideration in order that he might know the decision before leaving the Council Chamber. Otherwise, he stated, he would have to withdraw the bid.

Councilman Tolson withdrew his motion to refer the bids to O'Melveny and Myers. Councilman Powell withdrew his second.

At 8:06 p.m., Councilman Powell moved that the Council recess, together with City Attorney, John E. McCall, for the purpose of forming a decision on the matter. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

At 8:13 p.m., Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1813

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AWARDDING BONDS  
OF MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 2  
OF SAID CITY TO THE BEST BIDDER.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1813 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1813 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the fol-

lowing roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1814

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE  
CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN  
PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1814 be dispensed with. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1814 be adopted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from General Petroleum Corporation, advising that the total tax due under their County Franchise Ordinances Nos. 171 and 781 during the period from November 1, 1945 to October 31, 1946 is \$493.08. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Shell Oil Company, Inc., 1008 West 6th Street, Los Angeles, advising that no new installations, abandonments or alterations were made on pipe line laid under County Franchise Ordinance No. 328 during the period ending December 31, 1946. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Richfield Oil Corporation, Los Angeles, stating that no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned during the period from July 1, 1946 to December 31, 1946, under County Franchise Ordinance No. 92. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Tide Water Associated Oil Company, 610 South Main Street, Los Angeles, advising that no permits were issued and no pipe lines laid or removed during the period from July 1, 1946 to and including December 31, 1946, under County Franchise Ordinances Nos. 1014 and 1351. Matter of record.

A Resolution, adopted and submitted by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors was read, in which the anti-smog ordinance, recently drafted, was recommended for passage with the exception of Sections 26 and 27 and with the correction of a few typographical errors in Sections 17 and 18.

Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. R. D. Williamson, Owner of Dee's Drive Inn, 1311 Cabrillo Avenue, advising the Council that he is in a position to offer a waiting room, equipped with rest rooms, for bus passengers' use after the regular depot has closed at nine o'clock each night and on Sundays.

Mayor Sherfey moved that Councilman Tolson be authorized to communicate with Mr. Williamson and report back to the Council at a subsequent meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. J. W. Alford, 1911 Andreo Ave., requesting a refund in the amount represented by the unexpired portion of his licenses to operate the City Taxi Company in Torrance.

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He advised that he has sold all his right, title and interest to Mr. Samuel Katz, who is taking over the business.

Councilman Powell, after stating that the new business license ordinance specifies that no refunds are to be made after thirty days from the date of issuance, moved that this communication be referred to the entire City Council for study and report at the next meeting. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Two applications for taxicab owner's permits were presented, submitted by Mr. Samuel Katz, Plaza Hotel, who wishes to operate the City Taxi Company in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Tolson moved that these two permits be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. W. Hughes, Vice-President of the Farmers Automobile Inter Insurance Exchange, 4680 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, requesting that the sum of \$12.00 be refunded to his Company's Torrance agent, Mr. H. L. Mitchell, on the grounds that license fees for agents of insurance companies who pay the regular State tax on insurance premiums are not collectable.

Councilman Tolson moved that the refund of \$12.00 be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

A communication was read from Mr. Frank R. McDonald, Inglewood, advising that he has had a mobile wagon equipped with coffee urn, ice cream and sandwiches inspected and approved by the Los Angeles County Health Department and that he is desirous of obtaining a license to operate the above in the industrial plants of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that this request be referred to the Chief of Police, John H. Stroh, for recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Chief of Police, John H. Stroh, stating that he has investigated Mr. Sam Rogow and found nothing against his record; therefore, he recommended that Mr. Rogow be issued a business license to pick up and buy junk in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of the Chief of Police be concurred in by the City Council. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. F. J. Carpenter, Assistant Secretary at the National Supply Company, Torrance, expressing the hope that an amendment may be drawn up to the City Sales Tax Ordinance to provide for the exemption of large truckload deliveries of their products which are destined for delivery outside the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that this matter be referred to the City Council as a whole for future study. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Arthur Taylor of the Engineering Offices of Taylor and Taylor, 725 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, with reference to providing an adequate water supply for the 68 homes which Mr. Jerry Gordon is proposing to build in North Torrance. He advised that it would be advantageous to encourage the development of this tract, which lies within Municipal Water District No. 2, as a source of revenue for the new district. He urged the adoption of a resolution as authorization for his firm to negotiate with the Metropolitan Water District in order to make the pipe connection to this tract.

Councilman Tolson moved that this matter be held over for the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. W. M. Edwards, President of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, requesting a street light at the east side of the intersection at Palos Verdes Parkway and Calle Miramar.

Councilman Tolson moved that this problem be referred to City Engineer, Glenn M. Jain. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Two communications were read; one from Mr. W. M. Edwards, President of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, and one from Mr. William A. Mason, 204 Via La Circula, Hollywood Riviera, with reference to the disorder and wastage of water at the Vaughn Scott Camp for the Boy Scouts of America, a park belonging to the City of Torrance located in the Hollywood Riviera area. The letters revealed that, due to insufficient police inspection and no park supervision at all, the park had become a public menace and a huge expense to whomever is responsible for the water bills.

Councilman Tolson moved that this serious situation be referred to Dale Riley, Recreation Department Superintendent, for a solution. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Bessie Slonecker, Secretary of the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting that action be taken to outlaw the dump in the old sand pit on the Weston Ranch, which for over a year has been used for dumping oil refuse, old tires, etc., and which caused a fire last fall which nearly proved disastrous to the town of Lomita.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the entire Council for investigation and report at a subsequent meeting. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Joe Hawksworth, 116 East 76th Place, Los Angeles, making application for a license to operate his lunch wagon in the City of Torrance.

Accompanying the above was a communication from the Andersen & Carlson Manufacturing Company, 213th Street, advising that Mr. Hawksworth would be allowed, at the present time, to render lunch wagon service to their employees.

Councilman Powell moved that this matter be referred to the Chief of Police, John H. Stroh, for recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 3612 11th Avenue, Los Angeles, advising that the Society is now able to extend to the City of Torrance their services in behalf of the animals.

Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. A. J. Ferguson, 908 Beech Avenue, asking that a City-planted tree in his front yard be removed, as it continually sheds its leaves and is a danger to his front window during windstorms.

Councilman Tolson moved that this matter be referred to the Park Department for action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Petition, containing the names of six property owners on El Prado Street, was read requesting the removal of the Eucalyptus trees directly in front of their property.

Councilman Tolson moved that the removal of these trees be referred to the Park Department for action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from James Van Dyck, Director of the Torrance Area Youth Bands, in which he stated that his organization would appreciate the use of the City-owned bass violin in their band, if it could be located.

Councilman Powell reported that the instrument is being stored at the Torrance High School at this time and that he would have it transferred to the Auditorium if the Council approved.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City's bass violin be loaned to the Torrance Area Youth Bands and that Councilman Powell be author-

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ized to arrange for the transfer. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Pruitt Construction and Equipment Company, 8617 Fourth Avenue, Inglewood, with reference to the new subdivision located at 185th Street and Grenshaw Boulevard and lying within the newly formed Municipal Water District No. 2, which has been eliminated from said District. In order that they might begin improvements and construction by February 10, 1947, they must have an adequate water supply. They expect to complete the project in six months.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the matter be referred to the entire Council and that an informal meeting be arranged with Mr. W. H. Stanger, Water Superintendent, on Monday, January 13, 1947 at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Protest was read from Mr. E. W. Blackwood, 4810 W. 171st Street, Gardena, requesting a Public Hearing on the Torrance City Planning Commission's decision on Petition for Variance, Case No. 65, which was filed by the Community Airports, Inc., for permission to construct and operate a gasoline service station on the southwest corner of Redondo Beach Boulevard and Prairie Avenue. He stated that he is a property owner and a resident living within 300 feet of the proposed gasoline service station.

Mayor Sherfey moved that a Public Hearing on this case be set for Tuesday, January 28, 1947, and that the Secretary of the Planning Commission be notified immediately in order that he might send out the necessary notices to interested persons. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the United Steelworkers of America, 1316 Border Avenue, advising that they are in favor of the decision rendered in favor of the people in the Municipal Bus Lines case, which resulted from the City's attempt to sell the rolling stock of the Bus Lines. Matter of record.

A communication, addressed to Chief of Police John H. Stroh from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, was read, quoting an estimate of \$700.00 for the construction of the proposed addition to the Police Station using wood studs; the estimate excluding the lathing and plastering of the ceiling.

The Chief of Police recommended, in a notation at the bottom of Mr. Jain's letter, that construction be started at once on the new addition at the above estimated cost.

Mayor Sherfey advised Chief Stroh, who was present in the audience, that he had talked with Mr. Art Thistle regarding the matter and Mr. Thistle informed him of a contractor who has steel readily available. He further suggested that the matter be held over for another week or so until more information is obtained.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Torrance City Planning Commission, stating that the Planning Congress of Los Angeles County has been invited to hold their monthly dinner meeting in the Torrance Civic Auditorium, January 9, 1947 at 6:30 p.m., to which all members of the City Council, their wives and any interested persons are invited. Further, he requested that the Council grant the use of the Auditorium to the Congress without charge, as the organization is made up of City and County Officials and the Torrance City Planning Commission is a member thereof.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be granted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, advising that a refund of \$21.00 be made to Mr. Verdon L. West for Sewer Permit No. 1828, which was obtained on October 31, 1945 for the purpose of putting in a sewer connection at 2113 Border Avenue. The City was not required to make this connection; therefore, Mr. West is justified in requesting the refund.

Councilman Tolson moved that this request be concurred in and that the refund of \$21.00 be made. Councilman Powell seconded the

motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

A communication was read from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, with reference to the official census of the City of Torrance which will be taken during the latter part of February. The total approximate cost is \$1400.00 and the City Clerk is directed to prepare a certified check or postal money order for \$12.57, made payable to the Treasurer of the United States, with a communication officially requesting the special census; and to deposit \$625.00 in one of Torrance's local banks.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized and directed to meet the requirements outlined in the above communication. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

The resignation of Mr. Howard P. Raymond, Chairman of the Civil Service Board, effective as of December 18, 1946, was read.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council accept the resignation of Mr. Raymond and extend a vote of thanks for the services rendered by him. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

The resignation of Mr. John E. McCall from the office of City Attorney was read, to become effective on a date set by the City Council. He explained that his private practice will take him outside of the State of California for several weeks and that the volume of legal work for the City has increased to the point where it is impossible to give it the necessary time without neglecting his private practice.

Councilman Powell moved that the resignation of Mr. McCall be accepted, as of February 1, 1947, and that the Council extend him a vote of thanks for his services. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, with reference to three oil derricks located in South Torrance that are a hazard to lives and property. He stated that these derricks and the wells have been idle approximately five years and recommended that the City Council by resolution declare these derricks to be a public hazard and that the City Attorney be instructed to take legal action to have these derricks removed or repaired and put in a safe condition.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the legal department for necessary action. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Mayor Sherfey and Clerk Bartlett be authorized to execute the Agreement with the Torrance Signal Oilers for use of the baseball park for the year beginning January 1, 1947. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$150.00 be made for the purchase of 500 feet of 2" pipe to be used in the installation of the sprinkling system at Fern Avenue Park. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$110.31 be made for the payment to the American Bitumuls Company for 1595 gallons of Bitumuls for the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

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Councilman Tolson moved that the City Council authorize the use of the newly drawn-up table of Rental Rates, Rules and Regulation of the Torrance Civic Auditorium. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$573.03 be made for Torrance Municipal Bus Lines gross mileage; monthly audit. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$250.00 be made for the paving of both sides of the entrance to the Civic Auditorium, in which a lawn is now planted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$135.00, plus tax, be made for payment to the Dillingham Printing Company, Inc., for 5,000 10-ride commutation books for the Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Council authorize the correction of the Agreement between the Municipal Water District No. 1 of Torrance (Walteria) and the Grinnell Company, 520 Mateo Street, Los Angeles, in order to conform to the terms of their bid. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Council authorize the correction of the Agreement between the Municipal Water District No. 1 of Torrance (Walteria) and the Crane Company, 321 East 3rd Street, Los Angeles, in order to conform to the terms of their bid. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$1703.37 be made for the payment of the premiums due on the State Compensation Insurance Fund. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$112.99 be made for Fire Insurance premium on buildings at Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria). Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Jackson.

Clerk Bartlett reported that the dividend we receive annually from the State Compensation Insurance Fund has this year been increased to \$2688.68, or 44.5% of the total premiums paid. Matter of record.

Mayor Sherfey stated that he had no announcement to make at this time regarding the appointment of a successor to Mr. Howard P. Raymond for his unexpired term as Chairman of the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Tolson moved that Mr. Robert Haggard be reappointed to the Torrance Planning Commission, his former appointment having expired on December 13, 1946. Mayor Sherfey seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. George Thatcher of Walteria reported to the Council that he and the other voters of Walteria who cast their ballots at the January

